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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8

999 18TH STREET- SUITE 300

DENVER, CO 80202-2466

Phone 800-227-8917

<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

cc: Peggy.
Jim
Bent
Dale
Max

Ref: EPR

Mr. Gordon Sullivan
143 Crossway Avenue
Libby, Montana 59923

JUN 24 2005

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

When you and I talked by telephone last week, I committed to look into the issues you had raised and get back to you. I understand you also communicated with a number of other EPA and state government officials to register your complaints. To help ensure that there are no misunderstandings, and because of my schedule, I have elected to respond to your call in this letter. I am out of the office on official business for the next six work days, and I wanted to get you an answer as quickly as possible. For ease of discussion, I have grouped your comments together under common headings, which reflect my understanding of what you said.

EPA has ignored public input, and the public does not support EPA actions. You argued that EPA had ignored the public's input in Libby and stated that Libby residents did not understand the clean up program and had lost faith in EPA. The EPA contractor in Libby conducted a survey of persons whose houses have been cleaned up, and 93% rated the work done in their house as "satisfactory" or higher. Additionally, in a recent bulk mailing survey to the residents of Libby and Troy, over 70% of the respondents said that they were sufficiently aware of what is going on and were satisfied with EPA's work. Each of the last three EPA Administrators, two appointed and one acting, have visited Libby and conducted public meetings; I was there for two of those meetings, as well as informal discussions with a number of citizens. The current administrator has committed to visit Libby.

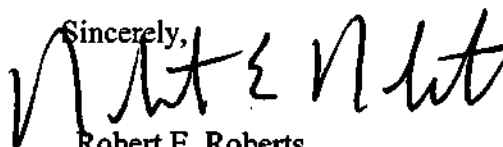
EPA attempts to reach the Libby public in many ways, such as through the newspaper, mailings, and by having an open door policy both at public meetings and at the Information Center in Libby. EPA has used public comment to change the course of the cleanup in several ways. This includes using the TAG's input to revise the Remedial Investigation Sampling Plan and to create a strategic sampling plan for building demolition. Additionally, EPA has begun using local contractors to assist in homeowners disputes related to restoration and to enhance the property check out list.

You will have a full opportunity, as will all interested parties, to make a formal input to EPA's plan for cleanup when the proposed remediation plan is open for public comment. We are working to have that occur in December. That will lead to some final decisions about EPA's cleanup approach.

Mr. Sullivan, you asked me what would happen if we got this cleanup wrong. My answer is that we are working very hard to make sure that we don't get it wrong. While I understand that you do not agree with some EPA actions in Libby, be assured that we understand how important getting this project right is, and I assure you that we are listening to the public through a variety of channels, and will continue to do so.

I trust this information is helpful.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Roberts
Regional Administrator

cc: Richard H. Oppen, Director
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
John Wardell, Director
U.S. EPA Montana Operations Office

